

SUGAR and PLANTATION NEWS

OLAA SUGAR CO. WILL MAKE PAPER FOR ITS OWN USE

Experiments Convince Directors That Plan Will Work Economy in Present Expense

ENTERPRISE IS NOT FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

Output Will Be Used in Connection With Mulching System in Use on Plantation

Olaa Sugar Company is to put in a bagasse paper plant. It will not undertake to manufacture paper for commercial purposes but it proposes to manufacture its own mulch paper. This the directors of the company have determined upon as an economical measure. It will dispose of the bagasse that has in the past gone to waste and will supply the company with the paper for its mulching system cheaper than the papers now used could be purchased. The company has been experimenting in this and the results have been so satisfactory that it has been determined to erect a small mill. What that mill may later grow into is another matter and one for later consideration.

Investigations of the possibilities for the manufacture and use of bagasse for paper manufacture have been made by several of the sugar companies of the islands, among these the Olaa Sugar Company. Some of the planters sent H. Renton Hind to the mainland about a year ago to investigate and on his return he rendered a report. Olaa's investigations have been along rather different lines than those of the others and experiments have convinced the directors of the company that it is quite feasible to manufacture a paper that is as satisfactory in use as the tar or asphaltum paper that is ordinarily bought for the mulching system.

Whether or not bagasse can be used in the manufacture of paper and such paper manufactured profitable for commercial purposes does not enter into the calculations of the directors of the Olaa company. That company is in business to produce sugar. It suffices that the directors have become convinced that a mill, large enough to answer the requirements of the company for mulch paper can be built and operated at a saving over present costs and that they are convinced that the mulching system with which the company has been experimenting is a system which the company may continue with profitable results.

PORTO RICAN CROP MOVES MORE FREELY

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, May 26.—Sugar shipments from the island to the United States have now exceeded 300,000 tons, and while shipments are now going forward regularly there still remains a very large accumulation of sugar at the centrals amounting to probably 125,000 tons. Recent weekly shipments have seldom exceeded 20,000 tons a week and have in many instances been below that amount. With the approach of the end of the harvest, however, there will soon be a gradual reduction of stocks.

Conditions Improving.—Sugar men have now ceased to complain of the increased freight rates they are compelled to pay as a result of the war, and generally speaking are at present able to move their sugars promptly after they are sold.

One development that probably will help relieve the shipping situation here is the release of three ships which have been tied up in San Juan harbor since the beginning of the war. Two of them are Hamburg-American line ships, which have now been taken over by the navy department, while the third is a British steamer brought here as a German prize. This latter ship is now being prepared for service by her British owners and within a short time will be ready to put to sea. These three steamers have each a net tonnage of approximately 7500 tons.

While these ships will not be kept permanently in the Porto Rico service, the Odenwald, which sailed this week, carried a partial cargo of sugar, and it is expected that when the other two ships are in condition to sail they will also carry as much sugar as can be loaded aboard them.

Sugar Men Protest.—Many sugar men are now appearing before the board of equalization and review, which is now sitting, in order to enter protests against the increase in assessments that has been made on sugar cane lands. A complete new survey and assessment of all of the property of the island, which has just been completed, has increased the assessed value of real property from about \$180,000,000 to approximately \$240,000,000, or 33 1/3 per cent. Because of recent high sugar prices the assessment of sugar lands has been considerably increased. The sugar men contend that the assessments should not be increased merely because their lands have temporarily increased in value.

A SUGAR FACTORY IN THE WAR ZONE—These are two recent photographs of the French beet sugar factory at Jeancourt, which has been battered into shapelessness by the guns of two armies. The Germans held the crumbling walls of this factory as one of their vantage points, surrendering it before the impetuous attacks of the Australians. The ruins of this factory are typical of what has happened to the sugar beet sections of Northern France and Belgium.



NEW YORK MARKET IS DOMINATED BY NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Under date of June 7 a local sugar agency has received the following market letter from New York:

(Special Telegram to The Louisiana Planter, Thursday Night, June 7, 1917.)
New York, June 7, 1917.
The market is still under the domination of news from Washington, and, until the tax and food control questions are eliminated, it is not likely that much activity will be witnessed. The refiners are satisfied with the proposition to place an excise tax to be collected at the plants and factories, but are not at all pleased with the cutting out of the drawback by the senate committee.

They feel that Louisiana and the beet people have put one over on them as a retaliation for the excise that this domestic as well as foreign sugar. One suggestion here is that the home producer will now have a club to knock out the internal impost which might prove so attractive as to stick after the war. A stiff fight will be made, it is said, to kill the withdrawal of the drawback since this will check the export business inasmuch as foreign buyers must pay the domestic price or a cent more than at present. The tendency will be to purchase raw sugar in preference, it is believed.

Refiners have been picking up odd parcels of raws at 4 1/2 c cost and freight Cuba, to take out supplies, but find no pressure from that point since the shippers have large contracts with the British commission yet to fill. The taking off of vessels is expected through commandeering by the American government which in turn may stiffen sellers' ideas. Presumably the belief that the refiners must come in for summer needs is not without its effect for the preserving season is ahead of them and it will call for large quantities of granulated.

They are catching up in shipments, Howells expecting to be prompt next week when it is likely that 7,500 may be named the same figure as the American, McCahan and Pennsylvania. In view of the fact that raws hold it is believed that granulated will settle down at the above level. Some circles look for the export movement to revive, in which event there would be no question of all refiners having sufficient business to prevent cutting tactics.

Futures have been very slow and uneventful. Cuban interests are persistent buyers with the trade selling. Outside speculation is at a minimum because of the small fluctuations.

The American bought raws today at 4 1/2 c cost and freight for New York and Philadelphia and Porto Rico at 5 1/2 c, in other words, at unchanged prices.

GROVE FARM BUILDS

Grove Farm plantation is building a neat set of cottages for laborers on the lands just made of the A. S. Wilcox home. The Hahakua camp is to be moved into these new quarters.

CUBAN GOVERNMENT SCALES ESTIMATE TWENTY PER CENT

HAVANA, June 2, 1917.—The Cuban government, through the private secretary of President Menocal, has issued the following statement regarding the sugar crop of the island for this season: "The original estimates of sugar statisticians for the crop of 1916-17 averaged somewhat over 3,400,000 tons. This in my judgment, was too high an estimate, even had there been no internal disorders, and on March 20th, bearing this in mind, as well as the attempt at revolt then at its height, I estimated the present crop at 2,850,000 tons. Now, with the crop nearing the end, and in view of telegraphic advices received from all districts in Camaguey and Oriente, I have revised my previous calculation in my estimate; this year's crop cannot exceed 2,850,000 tons as previously estimated, and will more probably be nearer 2,800,000 tons. The four western provinces in Cuba have manufactured to date 1,775,000 tons, and in Camaguey there have been manufactured 260,000 tons; in Oriente, the output to date is 450,000 tons. Even with good weather prevailing for the rest of the season, the four western provinces are not likely to manufacture more than 50,000 to 75,000 tons in addition to what they have already produced, Camaguey, 50,000 tons more, and Oriente, 250,000 tons, making the total possible crop fall under 2,850,000 tons, estimated in March."

This late, or, rather, revised estimate, therefore, shows that, notwithstanding the late start and the attempted rebellion, the present crop will have only fallen short of the too optimistic original estimates by something under 20 per cent, and only 5 per cent behind last year's record output. The stocks on hand in the island of Cuba today are approximately 20 per cent less than last year's.

These twenty factories would produce, five other factories shut down during the week, but it has been impossible to learn the exact number of bags produced. These are San Cayetano, Porvenir, Guipuzcoa, Regilla and San Francisco.

On May 26th Mr. H. Morgan arrived at Santiago de Cuba on a special mission from the American Government to investigate the losses which have been sustained by the sugar interests in Oriente and Camaguey Provinces, and is reported to have said that the American Government intended to cooperate with President Menocal, and, if necessary, put American troops at the disposal of the Cuban government to prevent any further damage to this year's sugar crop, and to insure next year's crop as well. We have reported the trouble some colonos have had in planting their crops in some sections of Oriente on account of interference of the rebels, and everyone realizes the importance of as large a crop as Cuba can be made to produce being not only desirable, but necessary.

It is probably a little early to bring up the question of next year's crop, but the burning of so much cane brings up a question about which opinion seems to be very divided. The question is, will the stubble from the burned cane grow as well and yield as much as stubble from cut cane. We have heard several express the opinion that it will be just as good as if the cane had not been burned, and, on the other hand, have heard it said that while the growth may appear just as good, when the time comes to cut the cane, it will be found that the decay of the old burned stalk has spread to the new cane. A gentleman who has had much experience in the sugar industry said that he believed the yield would be very generally lower from the fields that had been burned than from the others, for, in addition to the decay of

the new stalks, the task of separating the old burned stalks from the new will be no inconsiderable one, and much of this old cane will be ground with the good cane, which will, of course lower the yield. It would appear also that the growth in the first place would not be as good as from sound cane, or rather unburned cane, for it seems like the decay of the stalk would extend down into the roots of the cane, killing it, and preventing new growth.

Several prominent revolutionary leaders have given themselves up during the past week, and except in the mountainous regions of Oriente, the provinces are said to be almost free from revolutionary forces. These bands in the mountains of Oriente cannot be induced to meet the government troops in a fight, and content themselves with making raids and fleeing when government forces start after them. President Menocal has issued a decree cutting down the Cuban militia from 25,000 to 12,000 men at once, and this reduction is probably the best evidence that the government considers the revolution at an end.

WAILUKU PLANTS GARDENS

The employees of the Wailuku Sugar Company, in the three districts of Wailuku, Waiea and Waikapu have gardens planted to the total extent of about 8 acres. Sweet potatoes form the principal crop with some beans. About three times this area will be ultimately planted on this plantation.

LIME NEEDED IN SOIL

Ammonium sulphate is not capable of being transformed into nitrates by soil bacteria unless lime is present. The Virginia experiment station so states in a recent report dealing with the proper fertilization of crops grown on acid soils.

NEW LIGHT IS SHED ON NATURE OF HUMUS

Much data are accumulating to indicate that "humus" is not a typical soil product. It is not always black in color nor is it a substance of uniform chemical composition. The Minnesota experiment station in a recent report states that, "in general the forms of soil nitrogen appear to be quite similar in solubility to those forms occurring in unchanged vegetable materials, the only noteworthy difference being that vegetable materials contain a very considerable amount of nitrogen soluble in one per cent HCl, while soils contain only a small quantity. Also, the soils contain an appreciable amount of nitrogen quite insoluble in four per cent ammonia, in decided contrast to the unchanged vegetable materials."

From the results obtained, these investigators consider it extremely doubtful if a specific "humification" of plant materials takes place in the soil. What the scientific men have hitherto called "humus" is nothing more nor less than plant residues not completely decomposed, and this residue does not differ greatly in chemical composition from the dead plants before decomposition has commenced, at least so far as the mineral ash and nitrogen are concerned. The carbohydrate group, including starches and sugars largely disappear but the other compounds decompose very slowly and never completely disappear.

SUGAR REFINERS OF EAST OPPOSED TO DRAWBACK REPEAL

Claim Is Made That Proposed Measure Would Send Business To Canadian Refineries

TARIFF AND EXCISE TAX DOMINATE SUGAR MARKET

Java Shipments Likely To Go To United States By Way of Pacific Instead of Europe

Refiners are up in arms over the provision in the War Revenue Bill and claim that business now done in the United States will go to Canadian refineries. The same influences that governed the market the previous week governed it during the first week in June. Java sugar may enter the United States through Pacific coast ports instead of going to Europe as heretofore. These are some of the interesting statements contained in the weekly letter sent by its New York house to a local sugar agency under date of June 8. This letter says:

"The same influences which have been potent for the past few weeks still hold this market in thrall. Tariff and excise questions remain unsettled, the heavy stocks of raw sugar in possession of refiners and importers continue to exercise a depressing influence on prices while good harvesting weather in Cuba almost up to date permits sugar to be made that under normal conditions would not be made until next crop year."

Refiners are up in arms against the proposed abolition of the drawback privileges which is probably what Senator Broussard of Louisiana calculated upon when he had the amendment incorporated in the War Revenue Bill. As it puts all domestic sugars on an export parity with hitherto favored full duty and Cuba sugars it will be of interest, in the event of the amendment being retained in the bill, to see how it will affect the prices of these sugars and especially beet sugar, so long as war conditions prevail. The immediate effect will be to drive all export granulated business from American to Canadian refineries and, under the same conditions, it is scarcely to be believed that Java will go in any great quantities to Europe when we consider that tonnage is getting scarcer every day. At a pinch, of course, it is possible that Java may come into the United States through the back door via ports on the Pacific Ocean just as wheat is coming there from Australia to relieve the shortage now threatened because of possible failure of our own crops, but there is so much of the nebulous in any speculations one may indulge in that it is rather profitable to do so.

"All of this week the market for raw sugars has been under pressure. Last Saturday a lot of 5000 bags Porto Ricoes "in distress" were sold at Philadelphia to the Pennsylvania Sugar Co. at 5 1/2 cents C. I. F. and since then other lots from the same source more or less "in distress" have been sold at 5 1/2 cents. Cubas have held better but the indifference of refiners due to their well fortified position and poor domestic business have combined to force prices down. Today the market is quiet with buyers at 4 1/2 cents C. & F. for Cubas and sellers at 4 15-16 cents while prompt Porto Rico are saleable at 4 1/2 cents C. I. F. and a sale today of 20,000 bags for late June shipment at 5 1/2 cents C. I. F. has been put through."

"Cubas are still in some demand for Europe at 4 1/2 F. O. B. June loading, but the snap has gone out of this business also."

Figures from Cuba, for the week ending 2nd instant are:

	Himely (cfr ports)	Cuma
Receipts	56,090	62,445
Exports	62,433	57,358
Stock	596,251	607,325
Exports No. Hatterias	25,458	21,457
Exports New Orleans		
etc.	10,896	7,643
Exports Europe	28,000	28,153
Outputs	to U. S.	6,565
Outputs	to Europe	14,931

"Heavy rains are reported from some parts of the island. Centrals for the six ports still operating are 49 against 32 last year and 53 in 1915 at the same time."

Refined Sugar.
"All refiners, except the Federal, are today quoting 7 1/2 cents basis for granulated sugar, but we understand there is much disappointment over the response of the trade to the reduction in price. There is considerable sugar in second hands which is being offered as low as 7 1/2 to 7 5/8 cents without making much impression on buyers."

"Referring to a remark in our letter of twelfth ultimo, in which we referred to a new found quality of sugar viz: "Spontaneous Combustion" we trust this has not been taken literally, but if so that it must be charged to the subscribers' congenial "cleverly" when attempting to perpetrate a joke."

R. W. Filler, general superintendent of the Hawaii Consolidated Railway, who spent a few days on business in the city, has returned to his home in Hilo.